

From: [Naqvi, Yasir - M.P.](#)
To: [Michelle Groulx](#); cleadman@bankstreet.ca; kevin@sparkslive.com
Cc: [Fathallah, Monica \(Naqvi, Yasir - MP\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: OCOBIA Request: Trucker Convoy Protest in Ottawa, business support
Date: February 9, 2022 12:09:29 PM
Attachments: [Truck Convoy Protest - Support for Businesses Impacted.pdf](#)

Dear Michelle, Christine and Kevin,

I hope you are well in such a difficult time.

I am writing a quick note to let you know that I have read your letter. I have also shared it with relevant Ministers. Mona Fortier and I are working closely together to seek supports for our businesses.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or Monica (copied) if you have any questions, suggestions or more information.

Thank you very much,

Yasir

Yasir Naqvi
MP, Ottawa Centre
Député, Ottawa-Centre

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Michelle Groulx** <michelle.groulx@ocobia.org>
Date: Thu, Feb 3, 2022 at 2:53 PM
Subject: OCOBIA Request: Trucker Convoy Protest in Ottawa, business support
To: <Mona.Fortier@parl.gc.ca>, <yasir.naqvi@parl.gc.ca>
Cc: Watson, Jim (Mayor/Maire) <Jim.Watson@ottawa.ca>, Gravel, Mathieu <Mathieu.Gravel@ottawa.ca>, Dean Karakasis <DKarakasis@bomaottawa.org>, Ashley Hopkins <ahopkins@paradigmproperties.ca>, Kalin McCluskey <director@byward-market.com>, Andrew Peck <andrewpeck@downtownrideau.com>, Nathalie Carrier <ncarrier@vanierbia.com>, Christine Leadman <cleadman@bankstreet.ca>, Kevin McHale <kevin@sparkslive.com>, Steenbakker, Andrea <execdiretor@barrhavenbia.ca>, Roddy Bolivar <Roddy.Bolivar@crcbia.ca>, Dennis Van Staalduinen Executive Director - Wellington West BIA <ed@wellingtonwest.ca>

Hon. Minister Parliament Mona Fortier, President of the Treasury Board
Minister Parliament Yasir Naqvi, Ottawa Centre

Re: Trucker Convoy Protest in Ottawa

Dear Ministers,

We are writing to you today on behalf of 19 Ottawa BIAs, and the estimated collective 120,000 staff members within; more specifically, the eleven Ottawa BIAs within Ottawa's

core.

As you are aware, the Trucker Convoy Protest in Ottawa has seriously impacted businesses and citizens of Ottawa's downtown core.

Impacts on businesses due to the Convoy Protest:

1. Where obstruction of access due to thousands of trucks on Ottawa's streets over the course of last weekend and during the week impacted staffing, delivery of goods and services to and from businesses
2. Where obstruction was not an issue, many businesses were forced to shut down due to protest violations of Ontario public health restrictions/laws in place
3. Where staff were threatened through attempts to uphold Ontario public health restrictions and measures; and consequently sent home.

The financial hit, at a time when many businesses were poised to reopen on January 31, 2022, is immense.

OCOBIA issued a survey to 11 Business Improvement Areas in Ottawa's core to gather data on the Truck Convoy Protest impacts, to date. As of today, we have received 215 responses.

- 52% of the businesses surveyed stayed open during the protest. 48% closed specifically due to the protest (whether during or in preparation).
- 75% of the businesses surveyed lost revenue due directly to the protest
- 54% of the businesses surveyed cannot recover the revenue lost during the protest
- 45% of staff of the respondents were obstructed from coming into work
- 17% of staff of the respondents were sent home during the protest

The BIA Business respondents were located in:

- Westboro Village BIA
- Wellington West BIA
- Somerset Chinatown BIA
- Preston Street BIA
- Somerset Village BIA
- Glebe BIA
- Bank Street BIA
- Sparks Street BIA
- ByWard Market BIA
- Downtown Rideau BIA
- Vanier BIA

We share this [data to convey](#) the impact of the Truck Convoy Protest only to this specific date and time... *it is still ongoing*.

Through the sharing of this data, and the ongoing risk of business and staff livelihoods being further affected, we are requesting the following:

1. Release funding supports to businesses directly affected by this protest

2. Release funding supports to employees directly affected by this protest
3. Review and request Federal involvement in this protest, as it needs to be focused at Parliament Hill, where the issues lie, and not through the streets and BIAs of the City of Ottawa

We greatly appreciate the many supports our Government has provided over the course of several lockdowns due to this pandemic. The businesses and citizens of Ottawa need immediate action and support due to this protest.

Thank you for your consideration.

Michelle Groulx

Executive Director

OCOBIA

Ottawa Coalition of Business Improvement Areas

150 Elgin Street, 10th Floor

Ottawa, Ontario K2P 1L4

CC

OCOBIA Board of Directors:

Chair, Andrea Steenbakkers; Vice-Chair, Christine Leadman; Treasurer, Kevin McHale; Roddy Bolivar, Nathalie Carrier, Dennis Van Staaldin

Ottawa Downtown Core Business Improvement Areas

Dean Karakasis, Executive Director, BOMA Ottawa

Mayor Jim Watson

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